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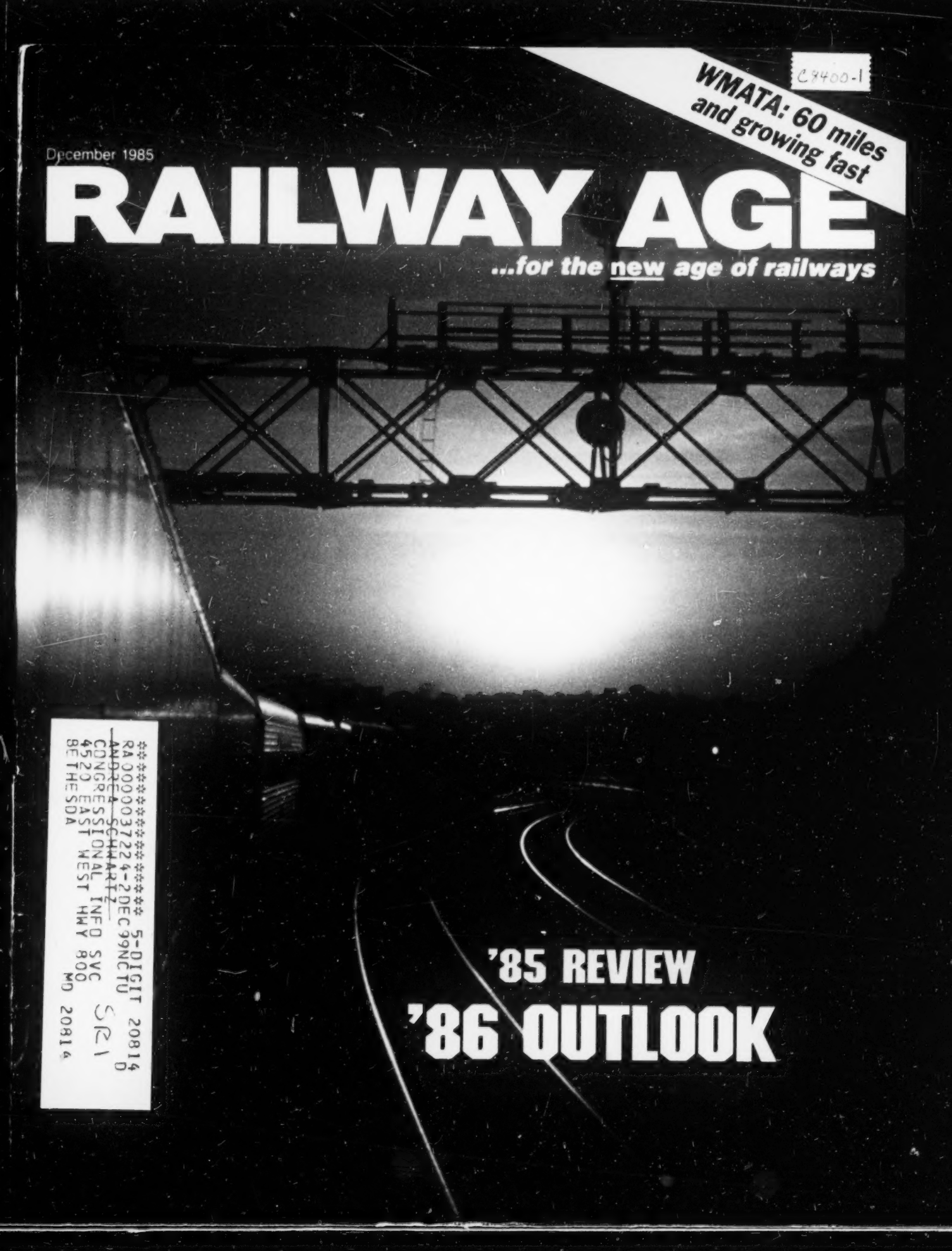
WMATA: 60 miles and growing fast

December 1985

# RAILWAY AGE

...for the new age of railways



## '85 REVIEW

## '86 OUTLOOK

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With few signs of a turnaround now evident, railroads will be under increasing pressure to find new ways to control costs—no easy task in a field already well harvested.

**38 '85 Review: From boom to blah**

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**51 Contract locomotive repair facilities**

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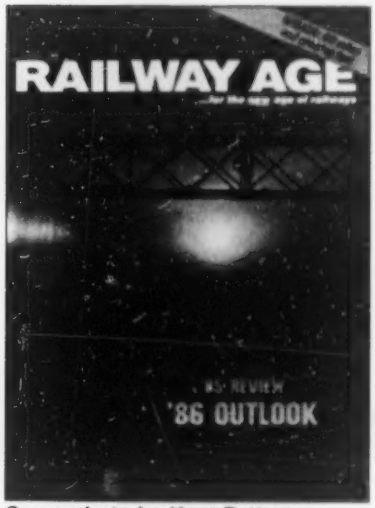
**60 Canadian roads push for parity**

CN and CP say that in order to stay competitive, they need some of the same freedoms U.S. roads now enjoy. "Freedom to Move" legislation may be the answer.

**65 Metro magic in Washington**

Metrorail has written a dazzling success story with a 60-mile system. Now it's campaigning for the funds needed to go the full 103 miles originally planned.




*Cover photo by Kent Patterson.*

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# Market Outlook

## Equipment

**Jacksonville Electric Authority:** Ordered 200 aluminum-steel BethGon Coalporters from Bethlehem Steel for delivery beginning in the second quarter of 1986 (see p. 32).

**Orlando Utilities:** Will acquire approximately 200 aluminum-steel coal hopper cars from Bethlehem Steel's Freight Car Division (see p. 32).

**Urban Transportation Development Corp.:** Has licensed Material y Construcciones, S.A. (MACOSA) to market the Advanced Light Rapid Transit System (ALRT) in Spain, Portugal, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, and Algeria. MACOSA already builds a wide range of cars in Barcelona, Valencia and San Juan and is building a fourth facility in Albuixech, Spain.

## Facilities

**Chicago & North Western:** Completed a $10-million upgrading of its line between West Chicago and Belvidere, Ill., permitting train speeds to be increased from an average of 10 mph to up to 40 mph over a 50-mile stretch of track.

**CP Rail:** Awarded a contract to Dominion Bridge of Calgary to build a through-plate girder bridge over the Blaeberry River west of Golden, B.C., part of a double-tracking project on which CP is spending $19 million (Canadian) this year.

**Metro-North:** Awarded a $600,000 contract to Times Fiber Communications, Inc., of Wallingford, Conn., for the supply of 75 miles of optical fiber cable (see p. 63).

**Union Tank Car. Co.:** Will build a 50,000-square-foot railcar maintenance and repair shop at Valdosta, Ga., on an 85-acre site served by Norfolk Southern and Seaboard. The shop, to be completed by mid-1986, will have car cleaning, blasting and painting, and waste treatment facilities. Annual capacity will be about 2,500 cars. Union Tank Car has ten other major shops and offers minor repairs at 14 additional locations.

## Revenue freight carloadings

| Commodity | Nov. 9 week | Nov. 2 week | Oct. 26 week | Oct. 19 week |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Grain | 32,322 | 33,713 | 26,494 | 24,922 |
| Other farm products | 5,021 | 4,614 | 4,204 | 4,184 |
| Metallic ores | 14,515 | 16,134 | 16,873 | 14,045 |
| Coal | 109,004 | 118,584 | 113,533 | 116,282 |
| Crushed stone, gravel and sand | 12,898 | 13,381 | 13,443 | 13,896 |
| Nonmetallic minerals | 11,334 | 10,656 | 9,842 | 11,774 |
| Grain mill products | 10,894 | 10,867 | 10,961 | 10,919 |
| Food and kindred products | 11,714 | 11,712 | 11,583 | 11,354 |
| Primary forest products | 11,194 | 10,561 | 11,208 | 11,298 |
| Lumber and wood products except furniture | 6,539 | 7,149 | 7,003 | 6,902 |
| Pulp, paper and allied products | 12,990 | 13,508 | 13,397 | 13,339 |
| Chemicals and allied products | 22,723 | 23,279 | 23,416 | 23,814 |
| Petroleum products | 4,797 | 4,467 | 4,521 | 4,697 |
| Stone, clay and glass products | 9,687 | 10,157 | 10,277 | 10,698 |
| Coke | 5,008 | 5,142 | 4,743 | 4,759 |
| Metals and products | 7,509 | 8,426 | 7,715 | 7,594 |
| Motor vehicles and equipment | 22,374 | 22,795 | 21,131 | 21,740 |
| Waste and scrap materials | 8,171 | 8,166 | 8,586 | 8,774 |
| Forwarder and shipper assn. traffic | 6,249 | 6,893 | 6,898 | 6,476 |
| All other carloads | 63,688 | 66,069 | 64,780 | 64,633 |
| LCL traffic | 221 | 167 | 180 | 163 |
| **Total Cars Loaded** | **388,852** | **406,440** | **390,788** | **392,263** |
| % change from previous year | (0.1) | 5.0 | 5.3 | 6.0 |
| **Estimated revenue ton-miles (billions)** | 18.1 | 18.8 | 17.9 | 18.0 |
| % change from previous year | (1.3) | 3.4 | 3.2 | 4.9 |

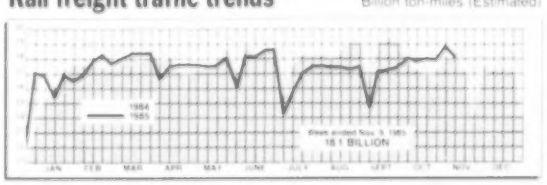
| Cumulative Total: | 1985 | 1984 | % change |
|---|---|---|---|
| 45 weeks | 770,7 | 806,7 | (4.5) |

## Piggyback loadings

| | Nov. 2 week | Oct. 26 week | Oct. 19 week | Oct. 12 week | Oct. 5 week |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Trailers containers | 95,391 | 94,235 | 91,703 | 94,388 | 96,498 |

| Cumulative total, 44 weeks | | % change from 1984 |
|---|---|---|
| Trailers containers | 3,827,431 | (1.7) |

### Rail freight traffic trends




Source: Association of American Railroads

## Freight cars

| | DELIVERED October 1985 | DELIVERED 10 months 1985 | DELIVERED 10 months 1984 | ORDERED October 1985 | ORDERED 10 months 1985 | ORDERED 10 months 1984 | ON ORDER AND UNDELIVERED Nov. 1, 1985 | Average Backlog 1985 | Average Backlog 1984 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Built new by carbuilders** | 1,169 | 9,835 | 10,375 | 980 | 7,835 | 13,778 | 2,394 | 3,727 | 6,209 |
| **Built new in RR shops** | 0 | 406 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 406 | 0 | 28 | 141 |
| **Built new—total** | **1,169** | **10,241** | **10,375** | **980** | **7,835** | **14,184** | **2,394** | **3,755** | **6,350** |
| **Rebuilt** | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| **TOTAL** | **1,169** | **10,241** | **10,375** | **980** | **7,835** | **14,184** | **2,394** | **3,755** | **6,350** |
| **Locomotives (new and rebuilt)** | 69 | 517 | 400 | N/A | N/A | N/A | 114 | 236 | 172 |

Source: Transportation Div., AAR and American Railway Car Institute